

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** February 17, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on February 10, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Wolcottville Fire, LaGrange County, Indiana**

On February 9, 2006, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) requested assistance from United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 with a fire in Wolcottville, Indiana. The fire started on February 8, 2006, and volunteer fire departments from Johnson Township, Orange Township, and LaGrange Township were fighting the fire. According to IDEM, the firemen were using water and dirt to extinguish a pile of approximately 4,000 cubic yards that was 80 percent railroad ties and 5 percent tires. Smoke from the fire was noticed half a mile away. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon and the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) responded. After OSC Simon and START arrived, IDEM felt that they could manage the situation.

Contact: Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality EPCRA Section 312 Training, Grand Rapids, Michigan**

On January 26, 2006, James Entzminger, Chemical Emergency

Preparedness and Prevention Section attended the training held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Approximately 100 participants from industry, government, and academic communities attended the training. Ms. Susan Parker, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), provided all the instruction, which included an overview of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), release reporting requirements, emergency planning, and chemical inventory reporting. A number of practical exercises were also used to help participants understand the reporting requirements. Mr. Entzminger acted as a resource person and assisted in answering questions.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality EPCRA Section 312 Training, Midland, Michigan**

On January 31, 2006, James Entzminger, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section attended the training held in Midland, Michigan. Approximately 90 participants from industry, government, and academic communities attended the training. Ms. Susan Parker, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, provided all the instruction, which included an overview of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, release reporting requirements, emergency planning, and chemical inventory reporting. A number of practical exercises were also used to help participants understand the reporting requirements. Mr. Entzminger acted as a resource person and assisted in answering questions.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

**Region 5 States/U.S. EPA Sediment Forum, Chicago, Illinois**

On February 9, 2006, the first Region 5 States/U.S. EPA Sediment Forum call of 2006 took place. Agenda items included updates on the Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) sediment remediation projects, the Ashtabula River and Harbor, Ohio, Field's Brook, Ohio, and Fox River, Wisconsin, sites, and Great Lakes funding from the President's proposed 2007 budget. An interactive discussion ensued around polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) cleanup levels, and the GLLA and Water Resources Development Act Section 312 environmental dredging programs with regard to the issue of polluter pays. The informative "Around the Region" completed the call with an update on the Grand Calumet River, Indiana, Feasibility Study. The next call will be April 13, 2006. The purpose of the Sediment Forum is to promote cross program and interagency coordination and communication in addressing

contaminated sediment sites.

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cc: Tom Dunne (OSWER)  
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